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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 539  
By Haynes

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend pastor Walter Phillips, Jr., founder of Christ Temple Christian Church.

WHEREAS, the Tennessee General Assembly is proud to specially recognize ministers, who through their extraordinary diligence and dedication, serve God and their communities in an exemplary manner; and

WHEREAS, a native Nashvillian, Pastor Walter Phillips, Jr., is a graduate of Stratford High School and, after being called into the ministry, he earned his Bachelor of Arts and Master's Degree in Christian Theology from Emmanuel Bible College; and

WHEREAS, under Pastor Phillips' august leadership the Christ Temple Christian Center Non-Denominational Church was established on March 5, 1995; he previously served the Lord as the highly respected Pastor at the First Baptist Church Hopewell in Old Hickory from 1983-1995; and

WHEREAS, Pastor Phillips' efforts have resulted in the establishment of an extensive outreach ministry that includes a separate ministry to both men and women, a Youth Ministry, a powerful Jail Ministry, and an inspirational one-hour radio broadcast each Sunday; and

WHEREAS, sixty inmates take part in the ever-growing Jail Ministry and have accepted the Lord and were baptized; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Phillips is a Senior Job Developer with Project Return, where he assists parolees and probationers in obtaining employment and job training. He has been

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instrumental in the returning of ex-offenders back into the mainstream, some of whom are worshipping at Christ Temple; and

WHEREAS, Pastor Phillips is currently teaching a six-week Bible Study at River Bend Special Needs Facility; and

WHEREAS, Pastor Phillips serves as a distinguished board member for "Don't Follow Me", the Youth Prevention Program, and the State of Tennessee One Church, One Child Adoption Program; and

WHEREAS, he is a valued member of the annual Family Unity Day Celebration committee sponsored by the Tennessee Legislative Black Caucus, as Vice President of the Pearl-Cohn High School PTSA, as president of the Pearl-Cohn High School Band Booster Club and as chairman of the Nashville Community Service Center Advisory Board; and

WHEREAS, the church statement concerning Pastor Phillips is very complimentary: "We, the members of Christ Temple Christ Center Non-Denominational Church, declare that Pastor Walter Phillips, Jr., is a man called of God, a God-sent pastor, full of the Holy Ghost, the husband of one wife, the loving father of three children, a man whose footsteps are ordered by the Lord. We also declare he has a heart full of God's love, a servant of the most-high God, is spiritually stable, a praying man, a humble man, a man who puts God first in all things, an ambassador of God, a man after God's heart, a man determined to bless the Lord at all times with his whole heart, a man who genuinely loves people, an instructor of the Word, a motivator in the Word, an encourager in righteousness. We further declare he is a man of integrity, a man who is destined to make a difference in this world, a man full of God's wisdom, and a loving pastor who will not compromise the Word of God. To sum it up, Pastor Phillips considers himself to be pastor of 'the left-over people.' He considers Christ Temple Christian Center to be the church of 'left-over people' ." Their motto is "Destined to Make a Difference."; and

WHEREAS, Pastor Phillips enjoys the love and unyielding support of his devoted wife, Marita; they are blessed with three wonderful children, La'Toya, Latosha, and Walter Jahmer; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we honor those noteworthy religious leaders whose remarkable achievements redound to the benefit of the public good; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we honor and commend pastor Walter Phillips, Jr., founder of Christ Temple Christian Church, extending to him our best wishes for every future success in the Lord's work.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.